Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost constant prices to decelerate to 7.8 per cent during April-September (2008-09) as against the growth of 9.3 per cent in the corresponding period of 2007-08.

The RBI in their Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy for the year 2008-09 have maintained their projection made during the Annual Policy Review in April 2008, for inflation at 7 percent by end March 2009, keeping in view the supply management measures taken by the Government and the lagged demand response to the monetary policy measures taken by the RBI over the last one year. RBI's endeavour is to bring down inflation to a tolerable level of below 5 per cent at the earliest, while aiming for convergence with the global average inflation of around 3.0 per cent over the medium term.

(c) and (d) Though growth rate of between 7 to 8 per cent represents some slow down from the high average growth of around 8.8 per cent in the last five years, this should be seen in the context that in the previous six-years (1997-98 to 2002-03) there was not even one year in which growth exceeded 7 per cent.

The growth in the first half of 2008-09 is characterized by an increase in the ratio of Government Consumption Expenditure component in the demand side of GDP, emanating from enhanced public expenditure directed towards promoting improved access to essential services, infrastructure development and rural prosperity aimed towards inclusive growth which impact the common man.

**Loss in jobs and global financial crisis**

*311. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the ever-increasing loss of employment in the country due to the deepening global financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to improve the economic sector;

(c) the details of action taken for labour intensive projects, if any; and

(d) the expected loss of employment in the country due to the deepening global financial crisis for the period 2008-10, year-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Unlike the developed countries where job losses have been reported due to the global financial crisis, the impact has been limited in India as a large proportion of population is employed in the agriculture sector which has been relatively not affected by the crisis. Besides, the services sector with a large share in GDP has also been less affected. Even in the export sector which registered negative growth in October, 2008, the fall was mainly due to a spike in export growth in October, 2007 and is limited to some sectors only. While no exhaustive surveys have been conducted to estimate the likely job losses in India due to global economic crisis, a sample study of 121 export related companies (for the period August-October, 2008) by Department of Commerce has indicated fall in jobs due to slowdown in some export sectors. A recent FICCI survey indicates some downsizing in employment in coming months particularly in some export sectors. Meanwhile, GDP growth is expected to

moderate somewhat from very high growth rate in the last 3 years but remain sufficiently high this year generating new employment opportunities. Further, 3.24 crore households have been provided employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as on 15.12.2008 in the current financial year. Year-wise and category-wise estimates of employment for the period 2008-10 are not available. The steps taken specifically for labour intensive industries among others include: providing interest subvention of 2% for pre and post shipment credit for industries like textiles, handlooms, handicrafts, gems and jewellery, and marine products upto 31.3.2009; refinance facility of Rs. 7000 crore for Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) by RBI to support micro, small and medium enterprises; reduction of rate of central excise duty on cotton textiles and textile articles from 4% to Nil; and Inclusion of all items of handicrafts under 'Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.'

**Loss to Air India due to overbooking**

†*312. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being realised by Government on account of overbooking of tickets by Air India and the amount paid in the form of compensation to passengers each year from the year 2005 to October, 2008;

(b) whether a review of the losses incurred is made by Government every year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to contain the losses being incurred on account of overbooking since 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No income is earned on account of overbooking. However, revenues are optimized by overbooking of flights. The details of Denied Boarding Compensation paid by Air India are as under:

| Year | Compensation Paid (Rs. Crores) |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 11.57 |
| 2006-07 | 06.77 |
| 2007-08 | 05.08 |
| April/October 2008 | yet to be compiled |

(b) and (c) While boarding compensation being part of the revenue optimization objective of the airline, can not be considered as losses. The booking of tickets is done through a dynamic computerized system capable of monitoring and taking corrective measure.

**Poor in-flight services in Air India**

*313. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.